

# Chicopee Register

COMMUNITY

## Facemate property to receive facelift

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
*Staff Writer*

CHICOPEE – A small ceremony occurred on April 7 at Facemate Lot #1, the West Main Street property formerly known as the Baskin Parcel. There, Singing Bridge, LLC, a Cummington-based business, was named as the preferred developer for the lot.

In the coming years, the site will feature a multi-sport indoor facility, a residential building that will house hundreds of residents and a restaurant or brewery with office space.

Located adjacent to the RiverMills Senior Center on Main Street, Facemate Lot #1 is the final portion of the former Facemate property marketed by the city for redevelopment. Singing Bridge proposed a mixed-use scheme, following the city’s vision for the former Uniroyal and Facemate properties.

“This is a significant and exciting milestone for the city of Chicopee,” said Mayor John

See **FACEMATE** page 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYOR JOHN VIEAU'S OFFICE.

[L to R] Billy Stetson, President of the Chicopee Sports Center and partner at Singing Bridge LLC, stands beside Mayor John Vieau, Hammad Graham, co-owner of Brisa Development, and City Treasurer Marie Laflamme on April 7.

COMMUNITY

## Council approves funding for police Crowd Control Team



PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI, JUNE 6, 2020

Hundreds of peaceful protesters marched to the Chicopee Police Station on Church Street last June.

*One councilor’s request for a public hearing was rejected*

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
*Staff Writer*

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Department is strengthening its newly-created Crowd Control Team. On April 6, Chicopee City Council approved a \$86,000 appropriation of Free Cash to fund the purchase of equipment for the 25-person unit.

“This occurred because public safety is paramount in the city of Chicopee,” said Mayor John Vieau. “We had two incidents last summer and, in being prepared, one of the things we want to be prepared

for is crowd control.”

The allocation will be spent on 85 gas mask pouches, 60 riot control canisters, 60 CBRN canisters, 60 gas masks, 60 riot helmets, 30 holsters, 30 mounted lights, 30 turtle skin gloves, 25 body armor inserts, uniform shirts and pants, adapters, fire extinguishers and other equipment.

The order passed, although Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe adamantly urged his colleagues to vote in favor of scheduling a public hearing to discuss the purchase further.

Twice unsuccessfully, McAuliffe motioned to schedule a meeting of the Joint Committee of Finance and Public Safety. On his second

See **CROWD CONTROL** page 7

COMMUNITY

## Several city pharmacies offering COVID-19 vaccine

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
*Staff Writer*

CHICOPEE – The city of Chicopee is still waiting to receive doses for its regional vaccination site at the Castle of Knights on Memorial Drive, but several pharmacies are already offering residents vaccines.

Walmart and Stop & Shop, two large-scale business located on Memorial Drive, have been approved to administer vaccines in their pharmacy departments.

CVS Pharmacy locations on Granby Road and Center Street are vaccinating residents, as are the Walgreens Pharmacy locations on James Street and St. James Avenue.

“These new sites in Chicopee will help residents receive their shot, keeping our community safe,” said Rep. Joseph Wagner of the 8th Hampden District. “I am pleased by the partnerships our state government has co-

See **VACCINE** page 8

COMMUNITY

## Body found in Conn. River

CHICOPEE – On Wednesday, the Chicopee Police Department Underwater Response Team retrieved a body from the Connecticut River. As of Wednesday night, the identity of the victim had not been confirmed.

The Underwater Response Team was actively conducting a search of the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers as an ongoing search and recovery operation for the missing boy from Chicopee. At 11:15 a.m., officers located a victim in the water in between the North End Bridge and Memorial Bridge, police

said in a statement.

The Chicopee Police Detective Bureau and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit, who are assigned to the Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni’s Office, were called to the scene.

The victim was later transported to the Hampden County Medical Examiner’s Office. Identification of the victim is pending of the Medical Examiner’s Office investigation.

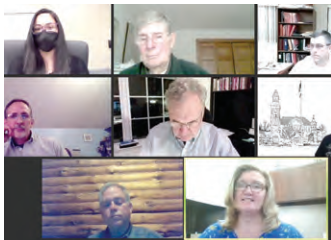
Any further inquiries can be directed to the District Attorney’s Office.



COMMUNITY

### Clean Sweep celebrates Earth Day

See Page 2



COMMUNITY

### Chicopee resident appointed Monson town admin.

See Page 3



COMMUNITY

### Elms College soccer will join GNAC

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SPORTS

### Pacers unable to adjust to opponent change

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# Clean Sweep to celebrate Earth Day next weekend

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – On the morning of April 24, the Chicopee Cultural Council will organize a Clean Sweep, covering eight neighborhoods in the city. The initiative is celebrating Earth Day, which falls on April 22.

“We understand there is a problem with trash in the city. This is just a small example of how we can all work together to improve those deficiencies that our city may have,” said Johnny Miranda, Chair of the Cultural Council.

From 9 a.m. until noon next Saturday, volunteers will work throughout the city in multiple locations, including Aldenville, Burnett Road, Chicopee Center, Chicopee Falls, Fairview, Ferry

Lane and Willimansett.

At each site, a captain will lead a cleaning team, addressing areas of each neighborhood that are in need of attention. Miranda emphasized that the common goal of the project is to improve the quality of life in Chicopee.

“There are many ways in which people can get involved in the community,” said Miranda. “This event encourages people to take civic action and to also assume responsibility for the betterment of the environment around them.”

Cultural Council member Deborah Sutherland designed the event and is coordinating with team captains in each of the neighborhoods that will be cleaned on April 24.

Cleaning routes are already determined. Miranda offered further informa-

tion on the genesis of the Clean Sweep.

“Every year, the Cultural Council gets money to distribute among the grantees. After we distribute those funds, there’s always an amount of money that is left,” said Miranda. “That is usually allocated for Cultural Council internal project – events that we want to do internally as an organization.”

This year, surplus funds are being used to finance the Fantastical Fall Festival, a council-led program that airs on ChicopeeTV, and the Clean Sweep.

All materials, including but not limited to gloves and trash bags, will be provided. Volunteers are asked to meet at the spot designated to them at 9 a.m.

Residents with no prior affiliation with the council are encouraged to participate in the April 24 event. The sign-up sheet can

be found on the council’s Facebook page or at <https://signup.com/go/VnXmhgD>.

Miranda welcomes participation from all those who are willing to venture to a cleaning site on April 24.

“Definitely, anyone can get involved in these events. This one in particular, I am encouraging people to participate for various reasons,” said Miranda. “It’s a Cultural Council event and is an opportunity to bring the mission of the Cultural Council to action. It’s also an event where we’re cleaning up the city.”

The council will award each participating team with \$100 to be put towards a local charity of their choosing. Team captains will be responsible for selecting each charity.

*Dalton Zbierski can be reached at [dz-bierski@turley.com](mailto:dz-bierski@turley.com).*

# Elms College nursing students closing the diaper gap

CHICOPEE – Students from the Elms College School of Nursing and the University of Massachusetts College of Nursing are organizing two diaper and menstrual supply drives to benefit It Takes a Village and the Amherst Survival Center.

Several classes of nursing students have been working with It Takes a Village, a local nonprofit organization that provides free postpartum support to families in Western Massachusetts, as part of their clinical practicum requirements. As they were conducting their field study, they were alarmed to learn that the lack of diaper access to low income families has reached a crisis stage. One in three families in the US cannot afford diapers, and currently families are not allowed to use SNAP (food stamp) or WIC benefits to purchase diapers.

A lack of diapers can keep babies

from attending daycare, which means parents cannot attend work or school, and keeping a baby in a soiled diaper too long can lead to serious medical complications.

“We didn’t realize how pervasive this problem really is,” said Alyssa Waskiewicz, a nursing student at UMass. “It’s heartbreaking that families must choose between food and diapers.”

Students also discovered the vast public health implications for people who cannot afford menstrual supplies, a problem that is often overlooked. “The COVID-19 Pandemic has made the problem even worse,” says Lisa Goding, Program Director for It Takes a Village. “Families are out of work, and many of the options they had for low-cost supplies disappeared overnight.”

Mobilized into action, the students decided to plan and implement concurrent supply drives for diapers, wipes, and other

sanitary supplies. Elms College students focused on menstrual and incontinence supplies, collecting them through an on-campus drive.

“After the birth of a child, everyone thinks about the baby, and the mother tends to be forgotten,” said Sara Scagliarini, a nursing student at Elms College. “We wanted to do something to support the whole family and keep mom in the front of our minds.”

In this age of social-distancing, UMass students decided to find a way for people to donate from home. Through the end of April, donors can go to [yougivegoods.com/UMASSDiaperDrive](http://yougivegoods.com/UMASSDiaperDrive) and select items to donate, which will be shipped directly to It Takes a Village’s donation center, the Village Closet, in Huntington, MA. Participants can also make a monetary donation, which will be used to offset the costs of deliveries to families lacking

transportation, as well as purchasing diapers in sizes not usually donated.

“An anonymous donor is also going to match the value of every donation of supplies or funds, for both schools’ drives,” said Goding. “These students are making such a huge impact for so many.”

It Takes a Village supports about 1500 families every year through home visits, parent groups, and free supplies. The Village Closet is the only diaper bank in the Hilltowns, and distributes nearly 30,000 diapers every year to families all across Western Mass. The Amherst Survival Center serves more than 6,000 people each year through their food pantry, community meals, drop-in health clinic, as well as a variety of other support services.

For more information, visit [yougivegoods.com/UMASSDiaperDrive](http://yougivegoods.com/UMASSDiaperDrive) or [www.hilltownvillage.org](http://www.hilltownvillage.org).

# RiverMills Center transportation services

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging’s Transportation Department is doing emergency rides to supermarkets, pharmacies and doctor’s appointment during COVID-19, for Chicopee seniors 60 and older.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., for Chicopee’s old-

er adults. For reservations, please call 413-536-5733.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicopee COA follows all CDC Safety Standards and adheres to all mandates from the City and State of Massachusetts.

A \$10,000 grant from WestMass ElderCare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings.

# Two Walgreens in Chicopee approved for COVID-19 vaccines

CHICOPEE – On April 2, State Representative Joseph F. Wagner (D - Chicopee) announced that two additional retail pharmacy locations in Chicopee will be used as COVID-19 vaccination sites. The new sites were recently approved by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

“I wish to thank the Baker Administration for their continued progress on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, specifically their concerted efforts to expand access to Gateway Cities such as Chicopee and communities in the greater western Massachusetts region,” said Wagner.

The two new sites in Chicopee are both Walgreens storefronts. They are:

**Walgreens**  
583 James Street  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Sat, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sun, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Walgreens**  
1 St James Avenue  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
Mon - Sat, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Sun, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Individuals currently eligible under the state’s vaccine plan may make a vaccine appointment on the retailer’s website. To find all vaccination sites, please visit the state’s website, <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

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Monson select board hires Chicopee woman as town administrator

By Michael Harrison  
mharison@turely.com

MONSON — Jennifer Wolowicz can remove the “interim” from her title. After serving as interim Monson Town Administrator for the past two months, the Chicopee resident was selected from a field of three candidates in contention for the permanent position after a vote by the select board Tuesday night. The vote to offer Wolowicz the position was 2-1 after nearly three hours of questioning followed by a brief discussion by the select board members in a live-streamed meeting. The position became available after former administrator Evan Brassard resigned to take the same position with the town of Grafton.

The other candidates were Anna Levine of Wilbraham, a member of that town’s finance committee, and Arthur Robert of Natick, who serves as that town’s director of Community and Economic Development. Levine is an attorney with experience serving not-for-profits. She also ran for the Wilbraham select board several years ago. Robert previously served as director of Community and Economic Development for Framingham and is a retired U.S. Army officer.

Candidates stayed in the meeting’s waiting room and were called in individually to be interviewed. Each interview lasted about 45 minutes. Bernard Lynch of Community Paradigm Associates, the firm handling the search for the town, praised all three candidates. Robert, he said, brings “great management skills and experience. He understands municipal government as a department head,” he said.

While Levine “doesn’t have the municipal management experience so much,” Lynch said, “one thing intriguing is her non-profit experience and the intellectual curiosity she’s displayed.” About Wolowicz, Lynch said “clearly (she’s) handled the job here in Monson and you’ve seen her up close. I think all three are very good.”

After the final candidate – Wolowicz – left the meeting, Selectwoman Mary Hull suggested tabling a vote.

“I don’t feel comfortable making a decision tonight without going back and talking (more) to candidates,” she said.

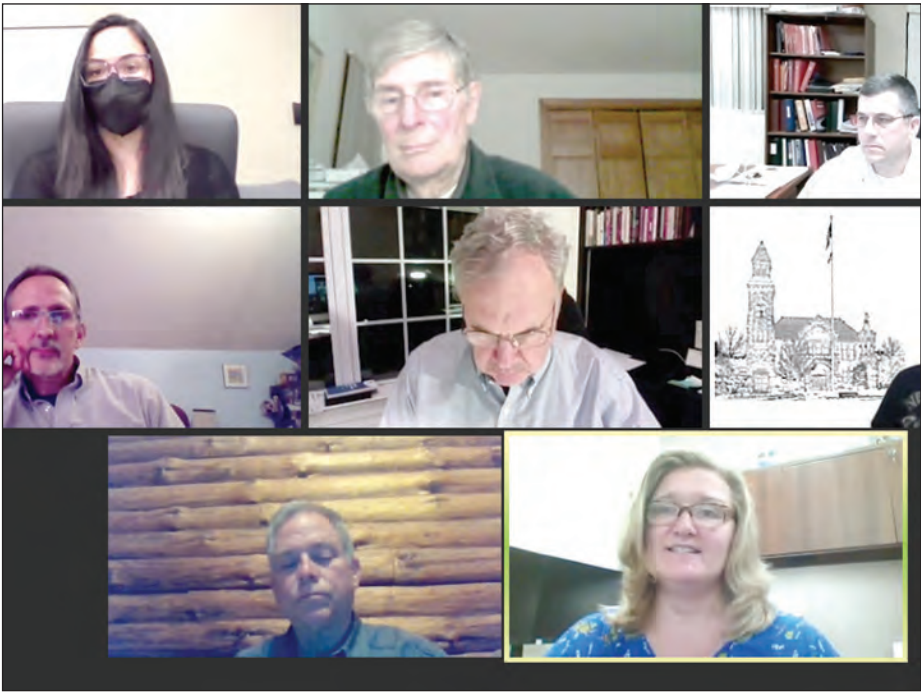
Board Chair Richard Smith said they should at least go ahead with a discussion. Selectman Ed Harrison seemed eager to get to a vote.

“I don’t have a problem with making a decision tonight,” he said.

“We’ve done that many times. I wouldn’t want to postpone a decision too long. We need to hire an administrator. We could still be talking about it in October (otherwise),” he said.

“I don’t think another couple of weeks will give me any more insight,” Smith said.

Harrison got right to the point. “My choice would be to keep what we’ve got and I make a motion to that effect,” he said, referring to Wolowicz, who



COURTESY PHOTO

In a screenshot from Tuesday night’s Monson Select Board meeting, Jennifer Wolowicz (lower right) is interviewed by members as well as a consultant hired by the town to lead its search for town administrator candidates. The board voted 2-1 to offer the job to Wolowicz, who has been serving as interim administrator.

recently earned a master’s degree in public administration and served in several positions, including interim and acting administrator and chief procurement officer for South Hadley more than 15 years.

“I agree with Ed,” Smith said. “Her education, her experience with South Hadley. We’ve had a chance to see if she’s a fit for the community. I’ve talked to people and it’s unanimous — people think she’s a good fit for the town,” he said.

Hull said she was wary of offering the job to Wolowicz because of a personal beef – what she described as a failure by Wolowicz to provide Hull cover over not wearing a mask in public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hull, who also serves on Monson’s Board of Health and has been on record several times about her personal opposition to wearing a mask, said she had a private conversation with Wolowicz about her choice and feels victimized by others in Town Hall who she feels do not approve.

“Because she didn’t go forward with that information,” Hull said she’s considered something of a pariah and worries about her safety in public buildings. Hull didn’t specify what was said in her conversation with Wolowicz.

“I was nervous to be in the building,” Hull said, because “(Wolowicz) didn’t share that information.”

Hull asked all three candidates whether or not Monson police should be given health agent status and the power to fine residents who don’t follow state guidelines enacted during the pandemic, including wearing a mask. The candidates all gave similar noncommittal responses to the question.

After Harrison made a motion to vote on offering the position to Wolowicz – and admitting he didn’t know how to pro-

nounce her name (it sounds like Wall-Owits) – Smith seconded it. The vote was 2-1 with Hull dissenting.

“Unbelievable,” Hull muttered after Smith cast the deciding vote.

Wolowicz, the last of the three interviewed while 45 spectators observed via the town’s Zoom webinar and several others tuned in to M-PACT TV’s broadcast, said one reason she wanted the job is, after earning her degree, “I want to use what I’ve learned in my ca-

reer on the next level.” She said she believes in looking creatively at ways to save the town money and to plan for years ahead.

“You can’t just buy a truck today and keep filling it with gas and you have that truck for 10 years. There’s maintenance, there’s repairs,” she said.

Other issues she said she would look forward to taking on include development to encourage more small business growth and senior citizen housing, possibly tackling both in part through public-private partnerships. And rather than using the “economic development,” Wolowicz said “I prefer the term ‘community development.’”

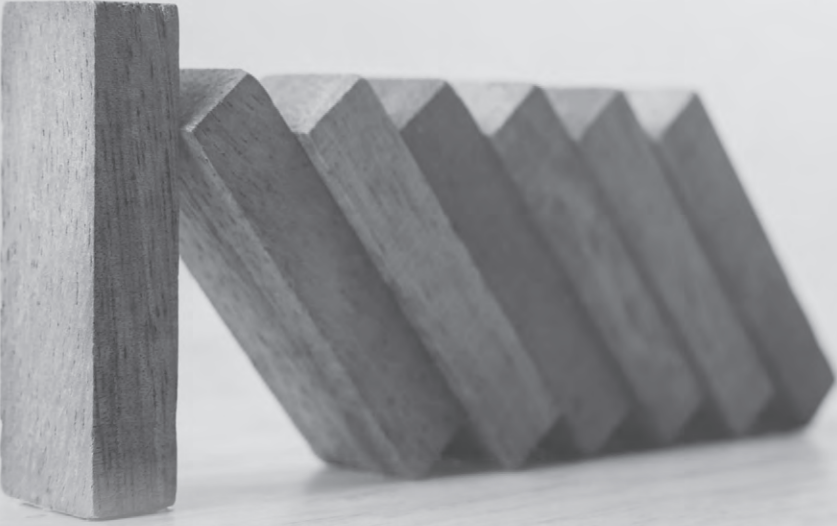
If she could sum her up style to public service in a short phrase, that would be “customer service,” she said.

“It’s all about customer service. I started my career in a savings bank. Knowing peoples’ names and building relationships. We all work in town hall or the library or whatever town office you’re in, you’re representing the town. Residents don’t have the choice of where they want to do their (town) business. If they have a dog, they have to get a license at town hall. If they’re paying their taxes they do it at town hall. It’s about having a good customer service attitude.”

In response to the question Hull asked each candidate about defining “civil rights in the workplace” Wolowicz gave this answer:

“The right to privacy, a fair workplace, fair compensation and to not be discriminated against. I think civil rights in the workplace is being kind to one another, treat people as you want to be treated,” she said.

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# Blazers will begin league competition this fall

CHICOPEE – Elms College and the Great Northeast Athletic Conference are pleased to announce that the Blazers’ GNAC core membership will begin this fall with the upcoming 2021-22 academic year.

Last October, both the institution and the league office issued a joint announcement indicating that Elms would join the GNAC with the 2022-23 academic year; however that timeline has since been adjusted.

Elms had been a member of the New England College Conference since 2007, claiming 19 league championships while leading the way in All-Academic selections.

“It was the right time to make the move,” said Elms College Director of Athletics Michael Theulen, DPE. “We are looking forward to having all of our varsity sport programs in the same league, and to competing with other institutions so closely aligned with Elms’s Mission, Core Values, and dedication to putting equal importance on both academic integrity and athletic opportunity.”

The Blazers swimming and diving programs have been associate members of GNAC since 2006, last competing at the 2020 GNAC Championships just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.



COURTESY PHOTO

Now all 17 sport programs will compete in the same conference, including: baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, field hockey, men’s golf, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s outdoor track & field, as well as men’s and women’s volleyball.

“The GNAC is a natural fit for Elms College, as seven other private Catholic Colleges are currently among its member institutions,” said Elms College President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA. “Also, our student-athletes have competed with GNAC institutions in various sports both in- and out-of-conference and already feel at home with its level of

competitiveness, sportspersonship, and comradery.”

GNAC Commissioner Joe Walsh, the conference office, and current members are working diligently to make scheduling adjustments to accommodate the Blazers’ programs, as Elms will now begin its GNAC journey this fall with men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s cross country, field hockey, men’s golf, and women’s volleyball.

“We are most pleased at the opportunity to offer a first-class student-athlete experience for Elms’ programs beginning this fall,” said Commissioner Walsh.

A private, Catholic coeducational liberal arts college in Chicopee, Elms was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Mass. Located two miles north of Springfield and 90 minutes west of Boston, it grants associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor of nursing practice degrees. The college aspires to live and work according to the core values of Faith, Community, Justice, and Excellence.

The Maguire Center serves as the home of the Elms athletic department, as well as its athletic gymnasium with a suspended indoor track, a 25-meter pool, a sports medicine facility and aerobics/weight rooms.

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## Lifeguard training class during April vacation week

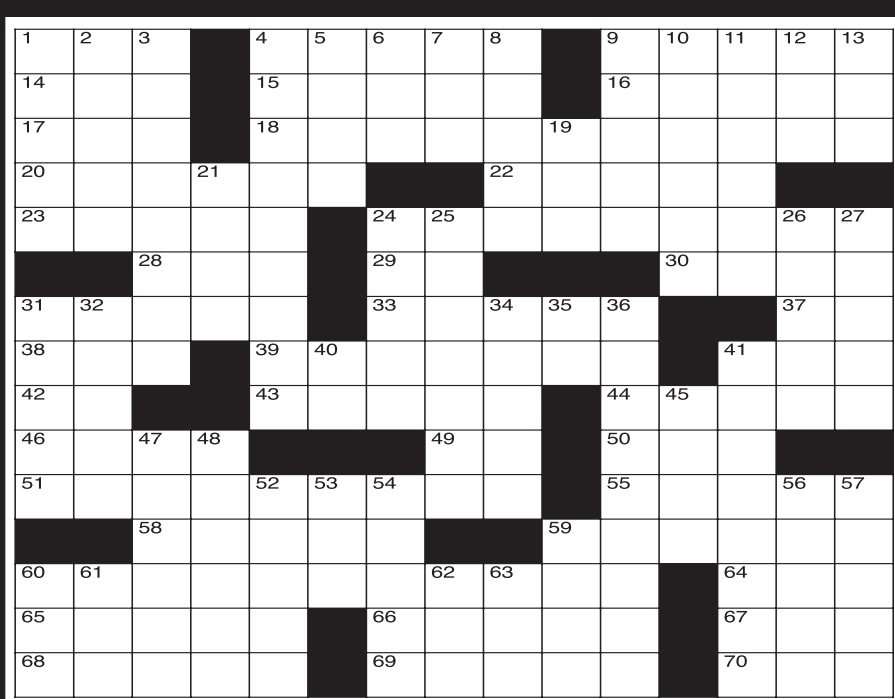
CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks Department is holding an American Red Cross lifeguard certification classes at the Chicopee Comp High School Pool. Classes will be held during school April Vacation, Tuesday, April 20 through Friday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants must attend all classes. This course will include certification in Lifeguard Training, CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and Community First Aid. This is a blended class

and it will consist of nine hours of online and in-person training.

Participants must be 16 years of age on or before the end of the course. The cost is \$260 for residents and \$265 for non-residents.

All participants must take a pre-skills test the first day to be officially enrolled into the class. Deadline to register is Wednesday April 14. For more info or to register log on to [www.chicopeerec.com](http://www.chicopeerec.com)



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)  
4. Ceramic jars  
9. Monetary units  
14. Alias  
15. “Superman” actor  
16. Britonic tribe  
17. Shorten  
18. LA Dodgers manager  
20. Hoarded  
22. Theatrically portray  
23. Noah’s grandson  
24. Dependent  
28. Peyton’s little brother  
29. Cools the house  
30. Principle part of  
31. Type of wrap  
33. Peels  
37. Commercial  
38. Make an attempt  
39. Arrange in steps  
41. U. Utah athlete  
42. Old English

43. Trade  
44. Nostrils  
46. Ticket seller \_\_\_Hub  
49. Of I  
50. Institute legal proceedings against  
51. Takes apart  
55. Doorway  
58. Long int’l river  
59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson  
60. Former CBS News host  
64. Sign language  
65. Badgerlike mammal  
66. Thin strips of wood  
67. Brooklyn hoopster  
68. Portents of good or evil  
69. Footwear  
70. When you think you’ll arrive

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Batflower genus  
2. Predatory seabirds  
3. Fish farm  
4. Arrangements  
5. Go in advance of others  
6. Bulgarian monetary unit  
7. “\_\_\_ Maria”  
8. W. African ethnoreligious group  
9. Wild Asian oxen genus  
10. Vinegary  
11. To this  
12. Explosive  
13. Female sibling  
19. Orlando museum (abbr.)  
21. Type of hoop  
24. About Holy Father  
25. Academic environment  
26. Extremely angry  
27. Surrenders  
31. Swiss mountain pass  
32. Sharp mountain ridge  
34. Erases  
35. Spielberg’s alien  
36. Absurd  
40. Dorm worker  
41. Used to make pesticides  
45. The sister of your father or mother  
47. A way to let know  
48. Can’t produce much vegetation  
52. Small streams  
53. Folk singer DiFranco  
54. Weights  
56. Start over  
57. Black Sea resort city  
59. Wimbledon champ  
60. Corporate executive (abbr.)  
61. Unskilled actor who overacts  
62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!  
63. Of or relating to ears

## Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame announces 2021 events

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame Executive Committee recently announced that the 2021 Golf Tournament and Induction Ceremony Dinner is canceled.

Save the date for the HOF 5K Fun Run/Walk planned for Sept. 18. More details to follow.

The committee will continue to meet

to select 2021 scholarship recipients and those selected will be notified in June. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 1.

For scholarship applications, visit [chicopeeps.org/athletics-ca110258](http://chicopeeps.org/athletics-ca110258) or contact the Director of Athletics, Sean Mackin at 594-3574 or [samackin@cpsge.org](mailto:samackin@cpsge.org)

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# Big Y donates 2.4 million meals to food banks

REGION – To facilitate this past season of giving food to those in need, Big Y converted their Sack Hunger campaign from a \$10 bag of groceries to a streamlined \$5 donation to the five food banks within their marketing area. These regional food banks support local soup kitchens, food pantries, senior food programs, children’s programs and more for the 2,100-member agencies they serve every day.

During last November and December, Big Y customers and employees

contributed almost \$300,000 to help their friends and neighbors in their communities. In order to expand their support, Big Y matched this contribution bringing the total up to \$600,000 or 2.4 million meals.

According to Big Y president and CEO, Charles L. D’Amour, “We appreciate the generosity of our customers and employees in helping us to support our friends and neighbors in need. And, we are grateful to our partnerships with our five area food banks for their heroic efforts in serving those most vulnerable in

our communities. Being able to provide another 2.4 million meals through our Sack Hunger program helps us to fulfill our mission to feed families.”

This past year has seen dramatic increases in food insecurity throughout the region. Big Y’s Sack Hunger donation is part of their ongoing support throughout the year including almost daily donations of meat, fresh produce and bakery along with grocery, frozen food and dairy items. And, based upon this past challenging year due to the pandemic, Big Y had al-

ready contributed another \$250,000 in support of the food banks for their work with vulnerable populations.

The five regional food banks are the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, the Worcester County Food Bank, and the Greater Boston Food Bank in Massachusetts, as well as Foodshare and the Connecticut Food Bank in Connecticut. This year’s virtual Sack Hunger bags were purchased from amongst 71 Big Y supermarkets, Fresh Acres Specialty Market and Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors.

## SENIORS

### ‘Mindful Eating Practices’ presentation, April 21

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will host the Zoom presentation “Mindful Eating Practices” on Wednesday, April 21 at 11 a.m.

This workshop, presented by Ascendria Care Alliance, will help participants learn about mindful eating practices, re-

viewing some well-known approaches to mindful eating, how they differ from the standard “dieting” approach to weight loss and how to incorporate some of these practices into your daily routine. To register, visit RiverMills Centers Facebook page or call 413-534-3698.

### Gentle exercise with Ryan via Zoom

CHICOPEE- The Council on Aging offers “Gentle Exercise with Ryan” Via Zoom, Mondays and Fridays at 12 p.m.

This class focuses on functional movement & fun. This is an online class. Join Ryan every Monday and Friday at 12 p.m. The Zoom link is shared

on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please contact RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be emailed to you. Please save the Zoom link as that is the link you will use each class.

### Zoom Meditation with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Meditation with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 12 p.m.

Are you feeling stressed? Do you want to learn how to relax? Join us for Meditation on Zoom. This class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT. This is an online

class. The Zoom link will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

### Zoom Tai Chi with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Tai Chi with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Experience the many slow and gentle benefits of Tai Chi Fit/Qigong. The class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT, Certified in Tai Chi/Qigong. This is an online class. The Zoom link

will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

**FACEMATE** from page 1

Vieau on April 7. “Generations of Chicopee residents have intimate memories and connections to the RiverMills sites, and we are excited that future generations will again be able to leave their marks on these former industrial properties.”

Facemate Lot #1 lies on approximately 4.05 acres along the Chicopee River and includes a brick warehouse building that occupies nearly 10,000 square feet.

The former Facemate property served as a historic textile mill complex, consisting of 20 acres and seven buildings.

By redeveloping the former Uniroyal and Facemate sites, the city aims to reintroduce the lots to the surrounding neighborhood, while also filling community’s needs.

In the future, the city plans to expand the Chicopee Canal and RiverWalk, both of which are under design, to connect Chicopee Center to Chicopee Falls.

It is expected that a 102-unit residential building and an approximately 54,000 square foot multi-sport facility are to be built on the property. The warehouse will be used to house a 10,000-foot restaurant and brewery that will also make office space available.

It is estimated that the project will bring an investment of \$40 million to the city and that 52 new jobs will be created. City Treasurer Marie Laflamme is eager for the project to begin.

“We are excited by this proposal from the Singing Bridge partnership, as it represents a significant, transformational investment in this tax title parcel, returning productive uses to the site and allowing it to support the city’s tax base once again,” said Laflamme.

Singing Bridge represents a partner-



Chicopee stakeholders and public officials celebrate the promise of the addition of a residential building and multi-sports complex on West Main Street.



Hammad Graham, co-owner of Brisa Development, will help lead a transformation of Facemate Lot #1 in Chicopee.

ship between ADC Communities, Brisa Development, LLC and Chicopee Sports Center, Inc.

The release issued by the Mayor’s Office on April 7 reports that “ADA and Brisa are national developers of mixed-income and mixed-use developments, and CSC is a local entity of long-standing Chicopee residents, sports coaches and entrepreneurs.”

The Singing Bridge team is currently working towards advancing the conceptual site plans into final development plans to move through the local permitting process.

Director of Planning & Development Lee Pouliot believes that the project demonstrates the city’s commitment to prioritizing development proposals promoting elements identified by residents during the creation of the RiverMills at Chicopee Falls Vision Plan.

Pouliot credited several other contributing entities.



A 54,000 square-foot multi-sport facility is expected to be built on West Main Street along the Chicopee River.

“The city of Chicopee is grateful for the ongoing partnership between Chicopee and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Mass-

Development; agencies that have all played a significant role in preparing this parcel for redevelopment.”

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



## EDITORIAL

### SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

## Will my widow's benefit replace my own benefits?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: My husband is 76, retired for four years, and receiving Social Security. I am only 59 and still working. We are both in good health and I'd like to think we still have many years to enjoy retirement. My question: Is it true that if I start Social Security at 62, I can switch to my husband's Social Security benefits when he passes? If this is true (and his amount is slightly higher than my FRA amount), wouldn't it make sense for me to begin collecting at 62? Signed: Younger Spouse

Dear Younger Spouse: Yes, it is true that if you start your reduced personal Social Security benefit at age 62, and your husband (collecting a benefit higher than your own) predeceases you, you can switch to his higher benefit amount. But there are some other factors which come into play when dealing with survivor benefits, especially with an age difference:

- You must be at least 60 years old to claim your survivor benefit (or 50 if you are disabled).
- Your survivor benefit will be reduced if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age (FRA) when you claim it. The reduction is 4.75% for each full year earlier than your FRA that you claim the survivor benefit.
- You do not need to take your survivor benefit immediately upon your husband's death. Your survivor benefit as your husband's widow reaches maximum at your FRA, and you can choose to delay claiming your widow's benefit until you reach your FRA (to get the maximum amount).
- If you claim any Social Security benefit before your FRA (your own or your survivor benefit), and you are working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before SS takes back some of your benefits.

Considering the above, if your eventual benefit as your husband's widow will be the highest benefit you will be entitled to, then claiming your personal Social Security benefit at age 62 may be a prudent strategy. It allows you to collect your own benefit earlier (albeit reduced) until your higher survivor benefit kicks in to replace the smaller amount.

However, your plans for working prior to your full retirement age are key to deciding if you should claim benefits earlier. If you exceed the earnings limit (\$18,960 for 2021), Social Security will take away some of your benefits, which could mean you go without benefits until they recover what you owe. Indeed, if your earnings are high enough, you may find that you would get no Social Security benefits because the amount you owe for exceeding the earnings limit would completely offset your Social Security benefit.

So, as you can see, if you are working with a high income, the earnings limit might imply that waiting until your FRA to claim any Social Security benefit is the smartest move. But if you don't work after you claim Social Security, then taking your own benefit early and later switching

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 8

## GUEST COLUMN

### A Sunday sojourn, garden style

I enjoyed getting out into the garden last weekend, making my way around various parts of the yard that required attention. First stop, the perennial borders. As much as I love raking leaves, I raked the same gardens last month. It is always discouraging when you have to repeat something that you already did. Blame it on the massive oak tree in front of my house that just recently shed its leaves!

Why does it hold on to some of its leaves throughout the winter, anyway? I read some interesting hypotheses recently, explaining that the oak and its cousin the beech, are either evolutionarily delayed, or quite ahead of their time, depending on how you look at it. You see, we have the evergreens and we have deciduous trees. Then we have these trees in the middle. But what benefit could marcescence (holding on to dead leaves) be to the tree? One theory suggests that dead leaves covering the lower part of the tree protect vulnerable buds from deer browsing. Another says that the old leaves offer the buds measurable cold protection. I found yet two more explanations targeting moisture conservation, implying that the leaves funnel snow (i.e. water) to the base of the tree and that when the dead leaves fall they are the start of a moisture retentive mulch positioned exactly where the tree needs it the most, around the drip line. Very cool, indeed. Yet another thing to awe about creation, as if there weren't enough already!

While I was outside I took advantage of impending rain, and decided that there was no time like the present to lime and top dress my garlic with compost. This meant visiting the compost pile, and you guessed it, raking off a layer of oak leaves before giving it a few good turns, revealing the "black gold" beneath, teaming with worms. It's really neat to think that all those banana peels, egg shells, orange rinds and the like mixed with said leaves and grass clipping made this food for my garden. I filled a couple of buckets worth and headed over to the row of garlic. I was actually shocked

#### IN THE GARDEN



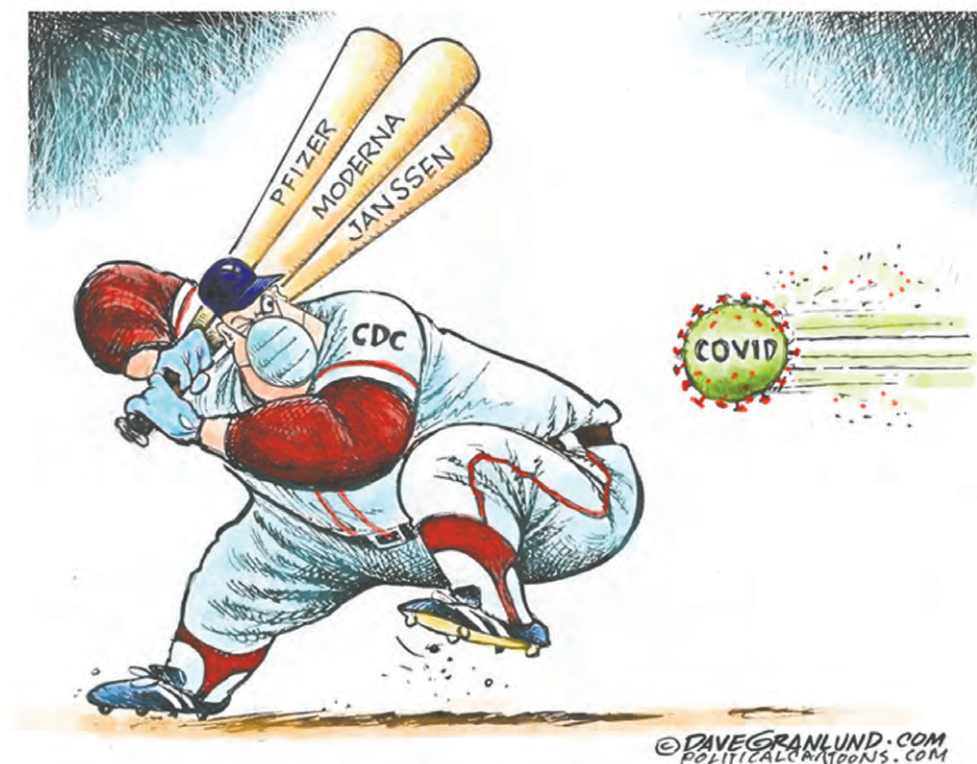
Roberta McQuaid  
Columnist

to see that it had sprouted a good five inches in the 10 days or so I had been out of the garden. Better to get this task accomplished almost late than never, I guess. I pulled back the much, laid a layer of compost, then reset the mulch and sprinkled the whole bed with a bit of lime. I really should get my soil tested, but I remember reading something years ago that always said never to think about growing alliums in anything but sweet soil, so there you go. This is the second year that I planted my garlic, laid a layer of cardboard on top and then mulched the whole shebang. It is off to another great start, so it seems. The cardboard helps prevent weeds and conserve moisture.

I also gave some lime to my lupines. It's what I was taught to do a million years ago and still do it, even though some sources say it is not needed. There is one bed, closer to my house that has been growing lupines far longer than the 10 years we've been here. In year two they flower, drop their seed and new plants germinate, sometimes with very little fan fare and usually in a spot where you least expect it or would desire it for perfect placement. Whether it is too close to another plant, too close to the front of the border or somewhere else not part of the plan, no worries. The volunteer always gets to stay because if you move it, chances are you will sever the tap root and lose the plant. And a June without lupines is too sad to risk it. The only time I have ever attempted moving a lupine seedling is when it has only its first or second true leaf, and then very, very carefully.

Have fun with wherever you are led on your next afternoon in the garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, per-

sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

*The Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com) or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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## Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone awarding \$3,000 in scholarship prizes

3 prizes will be awarded to students based on essays about distracted driving

REGION – The Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone in Massachusetts is proud to sponsor a nationwide essay contest focusing on innovative ways to prevent distracted driving. The three essay winners will receive \$3,000 worth of scholarship prizes for education-related expenses.

The essay contest is open to current or admitted undergraduates (including graduating high school seniors) and law school students who will be attending accredited colleges or universities in the United States in fall 2021. Proof of enrollment will be required to receive the award. Essays must be between 500 and 1,000 words long. The

essays will focus on how to prevent distracted driving and promote safe driving habits among young drivers.

Distracted driving – especially sending or reading a text – poses a threat not just to the driver, but to their passengers, people in other cars, and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 2014-2018 more than 15,000 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver, and teens ages 15-19 have the largest percentage of fatal crashes due to distracted driving.

The winning essay will be awarded \$1,500. The second prize winner receives a \$1,000 prize. Third place receives a \$500 prize. Only one essay can be submitted per student. Essays must be original content.

The application deadline is May 31.

Winners will be announced on July 31. Applicants can view the rules of the contest and apply online at the following web page for the Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone: [www.marksalomone.com/scholarship](http://www.marksalomone.com/scholarship)

Each submission must include:

- An essay as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx format)
- A digital photo of applicant (in .jpg or .png format)
- A school transcript or proof of enrollment
- Applicant's name, address and phone number
- School name and address
- A short, two to three sentence bio
- A waiver form with a parent or guardian's signature for applicants under 18 years old

## Scholarships from Chase, Clarke, Stewart & Fontana Insurance Agency

REGION – Chase, Clarke, Stewart & Fontana Insurance Agency, located in Springfield, is currently accepting applications for its 2021 ChaseIns & Ray Beattie Scholarship Awards. Two participating high school seniors will be awarded a \$1,000 each.

To view the scholarship requirements, visit [www.chaseins.com](http://www.chaseins.com). The deadline for recipients to apply is May 1.

### CROWD CONTROL from page 1

attempt, McAuliffe requested that the meeting be scheduled after the allocation was approved.

"I look at what has been listed here and need some clarification because some stuff does make me uncomfortable," said McAuliffe. "Not every community in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a Crowd Control Team. I want to learn more about why we believe we need that. If I'm given enough of a reason, I would be proud to support it."

The board overwhelmingly opposed McAuliffe's pleas for a public hearing, pointing out that the requested items were listed in the meeting's agenda packet. From a safety standpoint, several councilors felt that it would be unwise to divulge too much information.

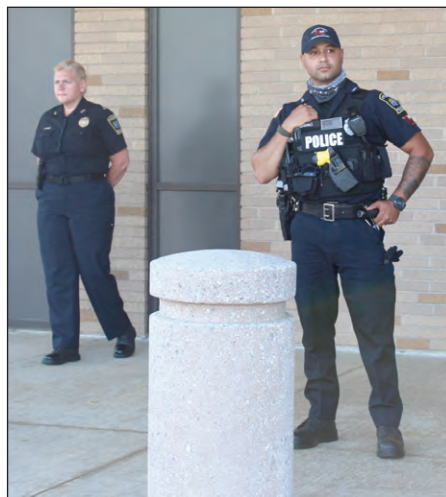
"There are certain things that the public would not understand, and there's certain things you don't want out into the public," said Councilor-At-Large Robert Zygarowski. "There are a lot of special units that we don't even know about, but they know and are ready to do the job. That's what's important."

Councilor-At-Large James Tillitson echoed Zygarowski, emphasizing the need to secure certain information in order to preserve the safety of the unit and residents.

"You can't tell us everything you've got because some of the stuff you don't want the potential enemy out there to know," said Tillitson.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne shared a similar perspective.

"For officer safety, not everything can be transparent," said Courchesne.



PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI, JUNE 6, 2020

Two Chicopee Police Officers look out into a crowd of peaceful protesters on June 6, 2020.

"You wouldn't go to someone and say, 'Hey, I'm going to raid your house tomorrow so now you have a chance to hide your drugs.' Some of this equipment is specialized. If we let the other hand know what's going on, they'll know how to defeat that stuff."

The conversation continued, as several more councilors spoke against McAuliffe's requests for a public meeting.

Pointing out that riots are occurring throughout the country, Ward 3 Councilor Lucjan Galecki made it known that he wants Chicopee to be ready.

"Councilor McAuliffe wants to know why we need a crowd control force? Just watch the news, and that will give you your answer," said Galecki. "I think there would be zero people turning out to that meeting to be honest with you."



Fearing that mass gatherings could become dangerous, the Chicopee Police Department has implemented a Crowd Control Team.

Tillitson feared that delaying the motion could alienate police officers in Chicopee, and he identified another national trend.

"Officers are leaving their positions all over the country. They don't feel secure and don't feel safe. We're trying to do something for the future; creating a special group that will be highly trained and have sensitivity training too," said Tillitson.

Still, McAuliffe wouldn't budge. Emphasizing importance of dialogue, he referred back to the strides that were taken last summer between the police department and community.

"One of the main things that was discussed was the desire for more communication and an opportunity for input," said McAuliffe. "I think we'd be doing a

disservice to not only the police, but to members of the public, if we didn't have a public hearing to discuss exactly what is being purchased."

McAuliffe expressed his belief that the money would be better spent on improving the salaries of Chicopee's police officers, who he considers to be underpaid. By requesting the meeting, McAuliffe felt that he was pursuing transparency that would be mutually beneficial to both the public and police department.

"I've given everybody an opportunity. I think it's a mistake to not have a hearing on this," said McAuliffe. "This is one of the strangest things I've ever seen happen on this council, to reject a public hearing on an order even after I made a motion to pass the order. Without that due respect, I cannot vote for this order."

Tillitson acknowledged that a public meeting to discuss the formation of the Crowd Control Team could still soon occur and be voted on, as early as the April 20 meeting.

However, such an action did not occur on April 6.

McAuliffe abstained from the final vote on the order, while 11 other councilors voted in favor. Zygarowski said he's confident that the right decision was made.

"It's \$86,000 well spent," he said. "I've been Chairman of Public Safety [Committee] for over 20 years, and I don't think we've ever denied the police anything. If you want to know something about the police department, go talk to the chief."

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).

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HCC union wants Gov. Baker to ‘stop Holyoke brush-off’

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College faculty and staff union has asked Gov. Charlie Baker to appoint a Holyoke resident to the college Board of Trustees. Currently, no one from Holyoke sits on the board that oversees Holyoke Community College.

The college chapter of the Massachusetts Community College Council says the vacancy created by the resignation of Jose Delgado of Springfield, who was recently appointed to head Baker’s Western Massachusetts office, creates an opportunity to end the snub of Holyoke.

“We are concerned about representation from the community we serve and that founded and has nurtured the college for 75 years. Although the surrounding communities are well represented on the board, and we even have a trustee who lives in Connecticut, Holyoke must not be ignored,” Chapter President Laura

Schlegel said in a letter to the governor.

“We are all too aware of what can happen without local representation and awareness of the issues in our community,” Schlegel said citing the college’s off-again, on-again plans to gut its English as a Second Language program and ESL tutoring services, as well as recurring proposals to cut back accounting classes.

“The shrinking of our career services program in the midst of high unemployment, was completed this spring over our protests,” she said. “Many of our students are attending HCC as a pathway to the middle class, and these subject areas are essential.”

“We believe that what works in Ohio or Kentucky or even Concord is not always what Holyoke needs,” the union said.

Holyoke has long been a Gateway City. Before the pandemic, students from

more than 200 countries sought walk-in writing tutoring during the school year, and the state has classified the community college as a Hispanic Serving Institution. Being fluent in written, as well as spoken, English is a necessity for those eager to advance above a beginning-level job or pursue a four-year degree and graduate education. In the same way, accounting and analysis of the financials form the basis of a successful business plan.

“Career planning and job services are not only what our students want. They are what our students and our city need as our economy recovers from the pandemic,” Schlegel said. “Placing a Holyoke resident on the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees is essential in making Holyoke and our community more than pretty lettering on a sign at the entrance to the college.”

**SOCIAL SECURITY** from page 6

to your higher widow’s benefit at or after your FRA would be a sound choice.

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*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**VACCINE** from page 1

ordinated with the private sector to expand access to the Western Massachusetts region.”

On April 12, the office of Chicopee Mayor John Vieau announced that talks are ongoing with Holyoke Health Center on a potential partnership for vaccines. Federal doses are currently being administered at the Holyoke facility; Chicopee believes that a partnership would be beneficial.

The arrangement at the Castle of Knights is ready, but, as of April 14, the state Department of Public Health has given the city no information regarding

when doses will be allotted.

On April 14, the city reported 350 active cases of COVID-19, as the statistic rises. A total of 4,059 residents have experienced COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic; 26 have died, and 3,566 have recovered. .

On April 12, the Mayor’s Office reported that the variant of COVID-19 originally identified in the U.K. is now the most dominant infection in the state. An increase in younger adults being affected has also been observed.

Last Saturday, 34 high school athletes from Chicopee were tested for the novel coronavirus; only one student tested positive.

On April 9, no candidates signed up for or attended interviewing sessions for the temporary clerical positions that have been created to man the city’s testing and vaccination sites.

Testing remains accessible in Chicopee, on Monday and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. until noon at the upper level of the RiverMills Senior Center at 5 W. Main St. Only Chicopee residents can access the testing site.

To help lessen the economic toll that the pandemic has had on the community, the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, the MassDevelopment Transformative Development Initiative Partnership and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission are

working together.

The project stems from the Recovery Plan, established by the Baker-Polito Administration to aid communities across the Commonwealth. The initiative will help 15,000 small businesses in Massachusetts; more than 85 exist in Chicopee.

“As we continue to navigate the pandemic and work toward recovery, our administration remains committed to collaborating with the local officials that know their communities best to address their unique challenges,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

*Dalton Zbierski can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).*



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Cost \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sports

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## Pacers unable to adjust to opponent change

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—It doesn't matter if it's a youth level team, a high school team, a college team, or a professional team, every football team usually spends several days practicing before playing a game.

The members of the Ware and Chicopee football teams had less than 24 hours to prepare for their first ever meeting on the gridiron on Apr. 3.

"This is definitely a new experience for all of us," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "We did do a very good job in today's game."

The Indians (2-1) scored a pair of first half touchdowns leading to a 14-0 road victory over the Pacers (0-2) at sun-drenched John W. Maloney Memorial Field.

"We were trying for three or four days to schedule a game," Fazio added. "We're very happy that Chicopee wanted to play us today. It took a whole team effort to get the win."

The Indians were originally slated to host Easthampton last Saturday afternoon and Chicopee was going to face Northampton on their home turf field at the same time. Both games were canceled due to COVID-19 related issues.

"Playing high school sports right now is a challenge. Things usually change daily," said Ware Athletic Director Thomas Shamgochian before the start of the game. "There was a lot of changes to the football schedule this week."

Once Shamgochian found out that the Easthampton football team wasn't going to be able to play last Saturday's game, he

went to work looking for another opponent for his team to play.

"I checked with all of the Athletic Directors in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) looking for a game," Shamgochian added. "I also contacted several AD's in Central and Eastern Mass. Auburn High School potentially had an opening for this weekend, but we were unable to put it together. Millis High School also had an opening. I also reached out to Martha Vineyard High School, but it was too far for them to travel at the last minute. We really wanted to play a game today."

At a little past 3pm last Friday afternoon, Shamgochian received a message from Chicopee Athletic Director Sean Mackin about setting up a game for last Saturday afternoon.

"When I asked my coaching staff about playing Chicopee,

they said absolutely and everything fell together perfectly," Shamgochian said. "I don't think coach Fazio got very much sleep last night because he was watching film on Hudle. I did receive a lot of phone calls and text messages from the players parents thanking me for making today's game happen. People in Ware are very appreciative of

their sports teams."

During the senior night ceremony for the Ware girls' varsity basketball team this past winter, Shamgochian received a standing ovation from the members of the girls' basketball team and their parents.

"The athletic director po-

See PACERS page 10



Jeremy Beach makes a handoff.



Deante Brown and Dezman Martinez work on defense for the Pacers.



Tre'yon Tillman tries to get away from a tackle.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Quarterback Jason Lozado rears back to pass.

## Gameplay largely unaffected in baseball modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While gameplay will remain largely the same, many high school baseball players will have to change a number of habits at least to start the baseball season in May.

Baseball is a game of superstition, habitual repetition of certain motions and the needed to do things like spit seeds and chew gum.

But under the modifications to the sport made by the Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs, players will have to refrain from certain behaviors, wear masks, and maintain distance despite the game itself involving a lot of distance.

The EEA, which has been

making modifications to high school sports and working with the MIAA to ensure safe play during the pandemic, did not have to do much to change how the game of baseball is played. But a number of the "dirty" habits needed to be curtailed to make it safer.

Consumption and spitting of sunflower and other seeds are prohibited this season. Players also cannot chew or spit during games. Spitting is also a major habit in baseball, and is banned for high schoolers and adults.

In high school, following warm-ups each half-inning, it is common for infielders, the catcher, and pitcher to have a brief "hype-up" huddle. That action is now banned to limit

See BASEBALL page 10

## Racing action kicks off at Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, Conn. — Hudson, NH's Derek Griffith went wire-to-wire to capture the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Thompson 75 at the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10. Griffith grabbed the lead in the first corner and was on a rail from there, claiming victory in the headliner for the afternoon session of the 82nd Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park season opener.

Griffith's win kept the young star perfect on the PASS Super Late Model season. He captured both PASS National Easter Bunny 150 events at North Carolina's Hickory Motor Speedway the previous weekend. Now Griffith also has a win in the PASS North championship opener.

It took less than 500 feet for Griffith to get to the front at Thompson. He started second after winning the second qualifying heat, and when polesitter Ben



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
Keith Rocco was a winner at last weekend's Icebreaker event.

Rowe had trouble coming up to speed, Griffith and several others shot past.

The only thing that could slow Griffith was the race's lone caution on lap 3 when Garrett Hall tagged the backstretch wall. When the field went green again, Griffith put the hammer down. Rowley, MA's Eddie "The Outlaw" MacDonald gave chase as best he could, and could narrow



Sean Newcomb also picked up a win.

the gap some in traffic, but Griffith restored his margin every time they got clear.

Even as multiple other drivers had strong runs go sour in the unseasonable warm weather, Griffith never wavered. He ultimately put more than half the

See RACING page 13



# New head coach for Blue Sox

HOLYOKE—The Valley Blue Sox are proud to announce the signing of Hezekiah (Hez) Randolph as the new head coach beginning this 2021 season.

“I couldn’t be more excited to join the Blue Sox as head coach,” said Randolph, who has a colorful history with the Sox, from being a player in the 2016 season to joining the coaching staff as a hitting coach in 2018.

“I think everyone’s goal is to one day fill the position of head coach, so I am first thrilled to take on this role.” He continued, “Secondly, to be the head coach for the Blue Sox, an organization that holds a special place in my heart.”

Randolph, 25, hails from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is an alumnus of the University of New Orleans, where he played collegiate baseball at the Division 1 level.

“I’m a southern kid, and I started playing unorganized baseball when I was two years old with my parents. I was hitting balls across the room,” he laughed, “and that’s when my dad decided that baseball was something that he should start investing in for me.”

Randolph played baseball, basketball, and football at Parkview Baptist High School in Baton Rouge, where he discovered his passion for baseball, although “most people thought that football was my better sport,” he said. After dropping basketball, his “first love,” he ended up loving baseball more and more, and “it became the sport I saw myself playing at the next level.”

Randolph excelled at the University of New Orleans, starting as a freshman and

contributing to the “tough turnaround” of the team. He led the Privateers in RBI (31), doubles (11), home runs (4), and slugging percentage (.433), in addition to being named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American in his first year and All-Louisiana First Team in his senior year.

The summer after his junior year, the Blue Sox staff reached out to Randolph’s college coach in hopes of having him join the 2016 roster.

“They actually thought I was some kind of myth,” Randolph recalled, “Why would a guy from New Orleans, Louisiana show up to Massachusetts?”

In the end, Randolph did show up. He spent the summer with the Blue Sox, and was selected for the New England Collegiate Baseball League All-Star Game, in addition to earning second-team honors.

Randolph found a home with the Blue Sox organization. “It was probably the best time of my life. I had an awesome host family who I still communicate with, as they were such an amazing blessing to me. They continue to help me develop as a man and I truly view them as family.” He said.

When he wasn’t playing that summer, Randolph spent his free time giving hitting lessons. “I was developing as a player myself, but also learning how to develop other players to be able to reach their own goals.”

Randolph’s coaching style and philosophy originates in large part from the teachings of the previous Blue Sox head coach and current Director of Baseball Operations, John Raiola.

“John has been an amazing mentor for me. I never really experienced a coach

put in the time to develop the person and not just the athlete,” said Randolph. “The mental part of it is always going to play a part in a players performance, and John definitely got me to understand that.”

Randolph was coaching a travel team when Raiola called to offer him the position as head coach.

“Throughout that summer, I enjoyed coaching so much that I thought to myself: If I love it so much, why not do it for a living? This was an opportunity I could not pass up.” He recalls.

In anticipation of the season, Randolph is looking forward to figuring out how to connect to his players as a head coach.

“The dynamic [from being an assistant coach to a head coach] is different.” He said, “The players feel like they can be a little more comfortable with you, because, at the end of the day, an assistant doesn’t really make the lineup.

I think that is going to be the most interesting part, as John really taught me how important it is to be able to connect with your players and find out how you are going to motivate them. If you’re coaching a bunch of unmotivated guys, it’s going to be hard to drive them to win and be the best player that they can be. At the end of the day, developing players is what this is all about.” He said.

Randolph’s experience with the Blue Sox gave him a new outlook on the game of baseball, and he could not be more excited to begin his journey as head coach. According to Randolph, “this opportunity pretty much changed my life.”

# MIAA hosts virtual wellness summit

FRANKLIN – The Annual Wellness Summit, which was offered at no cost and intended for student leaders and school personnel, included a morning and afternoon session each day. Over 500 participants were engaged in 12 interactive workshops covering subjects such as student and staff mental health, self-care and resiliency, substance misuse prevention, promoting support for LGBTQ students, suicide prevention, sports injury prevention, clean eating and diet culture and student leadership and teamwork. Participants included students, teachers, nurses, school administrators, wellness coordinators and school resource officers.

Workshop presenters included members of the MIAA Partners in Prevention, a powerful collaboration of public and private prevention agencies and initiatives. These agencies provide generous support, resources and expertise in the delivery of wellness services and programs. Presenters included: Ivy Watts (Ivy Watts Speaks), Jeff Perrotti (DESE Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students), Charity Bell (MA Department of Mental Health), Robert Hackenson, Jr. (Dynamic Influence), Student Advisory Committee (SAC) (MIAA), Jon Mattleman (Minding Your Mind), Kendra McDonald (Samaritans), Dr. Andrew Chen and Kate Fischer (University Orthopedics), Theresa Melito-Connors (Dr. MC’s Self Care Cabaret), Monika Ostroff (MEDA), Chris Sullivan (Not in the Playbook) and Kathi Meyer Sullivan (Taylor’s Message).

PACERS from page 9

sition here at Ware High School is supposed to part time, but Thomas has been putting in between 50 and 60 hours each week,” said Ware girls’ varsity coach Dan Orszulak, whose father, Paul, also served as the Ware A.D. for 30 years. “Without him, we wouldn’t be able to play any basketball games and the kids wouldn’t have these wonderful memories. He really deserved the standing ovation. I’m glad that he now knows that everyone appreciates

all of the hard work that he has done for us.”

Someone who has known Shamgochian for many years, is Gene Rich, who’s the Ware High School Principal and the boys’ varsity basketball coach. He was also the athletic director before Shamgochian took over the position at the start of the 2019-20 school year.

“Being an athletic director is a very difficult job, especially at a high school our size,” Rich said. “Thomas has taken the position to another level and has

worked extremely hard during the past couple of years. He really cares for all of the students here at Ware High School and for this community.”

At the beginning of this week, the Indians football team still didn’t have a game scheduled for this coming weekend. They were originally slated to face archrival Palmer for the 95th time at home on Friday night, but that game was postponed because of COVID related issues in the Palmer program.

“We’ll be looking for another opponent to play next week,” Shamgochian said.

chian said. “It’s a tough decision to make. Do you take the first game that’s available or do you keep looking for the game that you feel is best for the kids. We’ll do whatever it takes to play a football game.”

Ware senior quarterback Dillon Slatery explained how much work he and his teammates do each week at practice to prepare to play a game.

“We probably spend at least five hours as a team each week breaking down film on our next opponent,” he said. “Then our younger players set up the opposing team’s formations on both offense and defense at practice.”

BASEBALL from page 9

close contact among players.

If a coach wants to bring the infield into a huddle to discuss a strategy, six-foot distancing is required. Otherwise, the EEA is encouraging coaches to limit mound visits in general, and typically just to one coach, a pitcher, and a catcher.

High-fives and hand shakes are also extremely common in baseball, especially after a runner scores or an at-bat has been completed. While fist-bumps are not specifically banned, the EEA says players must refrain from hand-touching, which includes high-fives, and handshakes. Like all sports, the post-game handshake is suspended until the pandemic has ended.

In order to increase grip on the bat, many players often spit on their hands and/or batting gloves. That practice is also not allowed, especially in the case of players sharing bats.

All shared equipment, specifically batting helmets and bats, and in some cases, catcher’s gear, must all be properly sanitized between uses by different players. However, it can be shared unlike previous seasons and other sports where equipment could not be shared at all.

Game-play itself, is otherwise unaffected. While masks are required, there are no extra timeouts for water breaks as they are built in when a team is batting. There are no modifications to situations where players are in closer contact, such as the batter to catcher close distance, or a baserunner to a first baseman.

The spring season is scheduled to begin on April 26 with games beginning a week or two later. The spring season will go to July 3.

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Chicopee Register





# Keep in touch with kids at camp

Summer camp is an exciting way for children to spend their extended vacations from the classroom. Camps cater to various interests, including sports, crafts and even technological hobbies.

Children who attend overnight camps may spend several nights away from home. Some kids take this in stride, while others, possibly away from home for the first time, may experience some homesickness. Staying in touch while the kids are at camp can help alleviate fears and show children their parents care.

Camps now handle communication issues differently than they might have when today's parents were campers. While it once common for campers to send handwritten letters or short missives home to mom and dad, technology has changed that. Today's campers may have access to email accounts, or they even may be allowed to bring mobile phones along. This can facilitate communication, but it also may take away from the camping experience.

Parents need to find a balance between what might be too little or too much contact with campers. After all, camp is kids' chance to grow independent for a few days or weeks.

- Learn camp rules. The camp will likely provide information regarding correspondence. Camps may permit parents to send one-way emails and regular mail, but limit campers to handwritten letters only. Determine if mobile phones are allowed or should be left at home. Knowing the rules can help parents and kids plan accordingly.

- Pack correspondence supplies. Send kids to camp with fun papers, stickers, pens, and other crafty items. This way they'll be inspired to write home once or twice. Provide brief lessons on how to address an envelope for campers

who may not know how.

- Check blogs and texts. Some camps may blog about campers' progress, post information on social media or send out mass texts. These messages can reassure parents that their youngsters are doing just fine. Figure out which tech options are available from camp administrators.

- Send a care package. Treat the campers to some supplies from home. Pack camp-approved snacks and other reminders of home. Be sure to include enough for the entire cabin and your son or daughter will be the camp star.

- Expect some silence. If camp is going well and campers' days are fun-filled, they may be too busy for

daily correspondence. Parents may get nervous when they don't routinely see or hear from their children, but chances are everything is going swimmingly.

The camp experience is often harder on parents than children, as campers have their friends and activities to keep them busy. Brief communication helps campers grow more confident and independent.

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## Prevent dehydration during the dog days of summer

A person's desire to be outdoors can sometimes be at odds with the outdoors itself. The dead of winter tends to be a time of year when people know to stay indoors, but the dog days of summer can be dangerous as well.

Heat-related diseases like dehydration can put lives at risk. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration. Understanding dehydration and how to prevent it is essential for anyone who plans to spend time outside during the summer.

### What is dehydration?

The U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a dehydrated body does not have enough fluid and electrolytes to work properly. On an average day, the human body needs about three quarts of water. But the USNLM notes that anyone planning to spend time



outside in the hot sun needs significantly more water than that to avoid dehydration.

### What are the signs of dehydration?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that people experience dehydration differently. However, there are some common symptoms that indicate someone is dehydrated. These symptoms include:

- thirst,
- less frequent urina-

tion,

- dry skin,
- fatigue,
- light-headedness,
- dizziness,
- confusion, and
- dry mouth and mucous membranes,
- increased heart rate and breathing.

Children who are dehydrated may exhibit additional symptoms, including dry mouth and tongue; no tears and crying; no wet diapers for several hours; sunken abdomen, eyes or cheeks; listlessness; irritability; and skin

that does not flatten when pinched and released.

### How to prevent dehydration

Drinking plenty of fluids when working or playing in the sun is one way to prevent dehydration. Being sure to take in more fluid than you are losing is another way to prevent dehydration. Anyone, and especially people who sweat a lot, should keep a close eye on fluid loss when spending time outdoors in the summer. Sports drinks that help people maintain their electrolyte balance, such as Gatorade, can help prevent dehydration as well. Pedialyte is often recommended for sick infants or children who have experienced vomiting, as it can help restore electrolyte balance that was adversely affected when kids became sick. The solution can be equally effective at restoring electrolyte balance that was thrown off during heat exposure.

Dehydration poses a significant health risk at any time of year, but people who spend time out in the summer heat may be especially vulnerable. Limiting time spent outdoors on hot days and keeping a close eye on your fluid intake and fluid levels can help prevent dehydration.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Notice of Sale**  
**Gen.Laws C.255,Sec.39A**  
Chucks Towing, 78West St., Chicopee, MA is holding a private sale **April 30, 2021 at 4 P.M.** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses notice of sale.  
**12 VW Jetta**  
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By: C.P.D  
04/02, 04/09, 04/16/2021

**CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Business A to Residential A for 5227 SF for the purpose of converting existing business into a single-family residence located at 3 Hartford St. Applicant – Jose Rosa, 181 Elm St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

**\*COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor’s Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the April 28, 2021 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov) by April 26, 2021. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also

call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).  
04/09, 04/16/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD21P0533GD In the matter of: Santos Romero Of: Chicopee, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Evelyn Cruz-Cabrera** of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Santos Romero** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on

file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/05/2021.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara**

**M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 07, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/16/2020

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Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **April 30, 2021** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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FRANCIS KENNY  
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04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2021

RACING from page 9

field a lap down and cruised to an impressive win.

“I love it here,” Griffith said after the race. “I tell people all the time about how cool the Icebreaker is and how big of a weekend it is. You know we travel everywhere and not everybody understands how big of a weekend it is — and not just for PASS...so to come get another (win) here is pretty cool. It’s definitely one to mark off.”

MacDonald finished second with Center Conway, NH’s Gabe Brown a comfortable third. Rowe recovered from his early troubles and held off Rowland Robinson Jr. for fourth. Reigning PASS North champion D.J. Shaw, Johnny Clark, Corey Casagrande, Mike Scorzelli, and Dan Winter rounded out the top-10.

Berlin, CT’s Keith Rocco came out on top of a barnburner to win the Sunoco Modified season opener. Rocco started fourth in the 30-lap main event and took the lead from Oxford, MA’s Troy Talman on a lap-9 restart after Christian Turissi’s spin.

Wolcott, CT’s Mike Christopher moved into the runner-up spot following the second caution on lap 13. Rocco and Christopher pulled away from the field nose-to-tail for several laps, but with seven to go, the real battle began. Christopher dove inside Rocco entering turn 3,

the first of what would be six passes in as many laps. Rocco, however, kept putting his Modified out front at the start/finish line where it counted.

As the duo got the two-to-go signal, Christopher finally had the lead by a nose at the line and cleared Rocco entered turn one. Rocco went back underneath him in the third turn, and the two banged nerf bars. Christopher slid up the track, allowing Rocco to get away for another victory in his dominating Thompson Speedway career.

Talman and Todd Owen also got past Christopher thanks to the late contact, finishing second and third in the final run-down. Christopher had to settle for fourth. Danny Cates, Jonathan Puleo, John Lowinski-Loh, Richard Williams, Jason Sundeen, and Paul LaPlante completed the top-10.

Franklin, MA’s Bobby Santos III kicked off his Icebreaker weekend with a victory in the 25-lap NEMA LITES Midgerts feature. Santos started seventh in the Matt and Bob Seymour-owned #1, and after a slow start, began him march to the front. He inherited the second spot on lap 13 when Dan Cugini’s Midget shut down, then caught leader Jim Santa Maria with eight laps to go.

One lap later, Santos drove beneath Santa Maria on the front stretch and cleared him entering turn 1. It was no contest from there as Santos sailed to the

victory.

Santa Maria came in second followed by Jake Trainor. Kyle Valeri, Richie Coy, Paul Scally, Christopher Vose, Tiana Kibbe, Matt Seavy, and Cugini finched fourth through 10th.

Plymouth, MA Paul Newcomb ended a frenetic two days on a high note by winning the 25-lap Street Stock Open feature. Newcomb started fourth and found an opening early, muscling beneath polesitter Ryan Waterman in turn four to take the lead after two laps.

Candia, NH’s Jimmy Renfrew Jr. was the only driver who could even come close to hanging with Newcomb on the ensuing green-flag run. Renfrew got a shot on a restart with eight laps to go after Zachary Mead’s spin. But the #00 got loose exiting turn four the following lap. Renfrew eventually slid back to fourth as Newcomb marched to the victory.

Waterman finished second with Kyle Gero third. Joe Kohler, Wayne Coury, Bobby Segar Jr., Devin McConologue, Justin Travis, and Nick Hovey also earned top-10 finishes.

Freeport, NY’s Gerard Giordano Jr. won a photo finish over Warwick, RI’s Ryan Vanasse in the 35-lap EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge feature. Vanasse had pulled away in the middle stages of the event, but Giordano had the better long-run truck and ran him down with seven

laps to go. The fourth and final caution came out soon after, setting up a four-lap dash to the finish.

Vanasse initially cleared Giordano on the restart. With two laps to go, though, Giordano ducked back inside. Entered turn for the final time, the duo touched and got sideways. After gathering it up, they banged doors again coming to the line. It was Giordano, the former series champion, edging Vanasse by 0.015 seconds for the win.

Waterford, CT’s Emma Monahan had a strong run for third. Duane Noll, Connor Souza, Joe Arena, Andy Lindeman, Todd Taylor, Joseph Coates, and Randy Coates opened their season with top-10 finishes.

Sterling, CT’s Jared Roy continued his domination of the Thompson Mini Stocks with a victory in their 15-lap feature. Roy came from seventh on the starting grid to run down Steven Michalski at the halfway mark. After ducking inside Michalski as the leaders completed lap nine, Roy completed the pass entering turn one a circuit later.

Coming out of turn four the next time around, Michalski broke loose and spun to bring out the race’s only caution. Roy had a rear-view mirror full of Gales Ferry, CT’s Thomas Silva over the final four laps, but held on for the victory. Dave Trudeau, Douglas Curry, and Charles Canfield completed the top-five.

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Chicopee Register  
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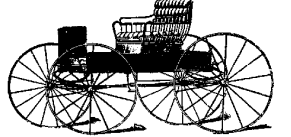
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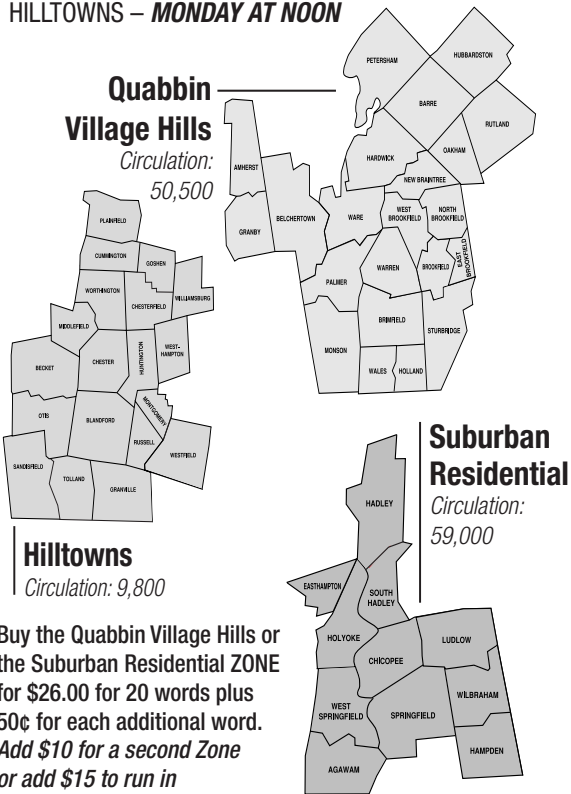
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Community Foundation awards \$1.3 million in grants

Grants target organizations supporting individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

SPRINGFIELD – The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts (CFWM) has awarded \$1.3 million in new grants to support local programs providing eviction prevention, mental health and food insecurity assistance to those impacted by COVID-19. The grants are from the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley, which to date has awarded \$10.2 million to 182 organizations in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

More than 700 donors, including individuals, foundations, businesses and \$4.4 million from the statewide Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, have contributed to CFWM’s COVID-19 Response Fund. Donors continue to give to the fund every week. Gifts can be made online at: [www.communityfoundation.org/donate-now](http://www.communityfoundation.org/donate-now).

To date, CFWM has leveraged almost \$12 million in gifts for COVID grantmaking to nonprofits in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

The church Tabernáculo de Gozo (TDG), located on Sumner Avenue in Springfield, was one of the community organizations that received a grant in the latest round. According to Pastor Henry Garcia, “These monies assisted about 90 people in Springfield and the surrounding community. TDG helped individuals with big utility bills that were behind such as electricity bills, gas bills and rents in ar-

rears. We also assisted with COVID-19 protection needs such as hand sanitizer, sanitizer wipes and face tissue. The Tabernáculo de Gozo church is very grateful to our sister Maria Arrias for providing the contact and to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.”

According to Katie Zobel, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, “Our grant making continues to evolve to meet the demands placed on the social infrastructure of our region as a result of the pandemic. More people are struggling to stay in their homes as a result of the devastating consequences of COVID-19 on our economy. Food insecurity continues to plague the region and there is a marked increase in individuals and families needing behavioral health care services. This latest round is aimed at these critical areas of need.”

Organizations who received the new round of COVID-19 Response grants include:

Friends Food Pantry (Springfield); Amherst Survival Center; Behavioral Health Network (Springfield); Bethany Assembly of God Food Pantry (Agawam); Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke; Caring Health Center (Springfield); Catholic Charities Agency of the Diocese of Springfield;

Center for Human Development (Springfield); Clinical & Support Options (Northampton); Community Action Pioneer Valley (Greenfield); Community Health Center of Franklin County (Greenfield); Community Legal Aid; Community Survival Center (Springfield); Easthampton Community Center;

Franklin Area Survival Center (Turners Falls); Franklin County Community Meals Program (Greenfield); Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (Turners Falls); Gandara Mental Health Center (West Springfield); Good Neighbors Food Pantry (Charlemont); Greater Springfield Senior Services; Greater Westfield Emergency Food Pantry; Health Law Advocates; Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry (Belchertown);

Highland-Valley Elder Services (Northampton); Hilltown Churches Food Pantry (Ashfield); Hilltown Community Health Centers (Worthington); Holyoke Health Center; Iglesia Tabernacolo de Gozo (Springfield); Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry (Ware); LifePath (Greenfield); Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen and Pantry (Chicopee); MANNA Soup Kitchen (Northampton);

Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (Agawam); Mental Health Association (Springfield); NAMI Western Massachusetts (Agawam); Neighbors Helping Neighbors (South Hadley); Oasis Food Pantry (Springfield); Open Pantry Community Services (Springfield); Palmer Food Share; Rachel’s Table (Springfield); Reaping the Harvest (Springfield); River Valley Counseling (Holyoke); Root Studio (Turners Falls); Safe Passage (Northampton); Seeds of Solidarity Education Center (Orange); ServiceNet (Northampton); Spring of Hope Church of God in Christ Food Pantry (Springfield);

Springfield No One Leaves; Springfield Partners for Community Action; Stone Soup Café (Greenfield); The Salvation Army - Springfield Corps; The

Salvation Army - Greenfield Corps; The Salvation Army - Holyoke Corps; Valley Opportunity Council (Chicopee); Victory Temple Church of God in Christ (West Springfield); Wales Community Pantry; Way Finders (Springfield); Wendell Good Neighbors; Western Massachusetts Training Consortium (Holyoke); WestMass Elder Care (Holyoke); Womanshelter Companeros (Holyoke); YWCA of Western Massachusetts (Springfield).

The Community Foundation’s response to the COVID-19 crisis has been multifaceted. In March 2020, CFWM began grantmaking to respond to the pandemic, providing emergency grants to support nonprofits serving those most vulnerable to the crisis. In October 2020, CFWM awarded \$2 million in Stabilization Grants to 70 nonprofits that had been negatively impacted by the pandemic financially. The Foundation has also provided non-monetary support through trainings for nonprofits. In response to the deep impact on local artists, CFWM’s Valley Creates program has provided training and capital grants to artists.

In February, CFWM expects to award grants to organizations directly supporting immigrant populations impacted by COVID-19.

CFWM also re-launched Valley Gives in 2020, the “one-stop-giving” online platform, to connect donors with local nonprofits struggling to provide vital community programs and services-particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. Formerly a single giving day event, Valley Gives will remain “open” for 2021 and will give nonprofits a needed fundraising boost.

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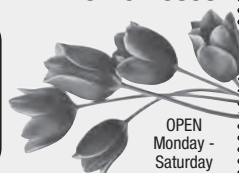
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